

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 4-13, and 16-20 remain in this application. Claims 1, 16 and 19 have been amended. Claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled. No new claims have been added.

Applicants note the indicated allowability of Claim 3 is withdrawn by the Examiner in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Moon et al (U.S. 2003/0095307 A1) in view of Smith et al (U.S. 6,542,282 B2).

Applicants note that the Examiner indicated Claims 10-13, 17 and 18 are allowed.

Additionally, Applicants note that the Examiner indicated that Claims 15, 16, and 20 are objected to as being dependent on Applicants' rejected base Claim 1, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to incorporate elements found in Claims 15 and intervening Claim 14, thereby rendering Claim 1 allowable. Applicants have also amended Claim 16 to incorporate Claim 1 thereby rendering Claim 16 allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants contend that pending Claims 1, 2, and 4-13, and 16-20 are now allowable and hence, Applicants respectfully request a prompt Notice of Allowance.

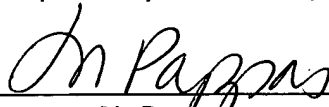
CONCLUSION

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of records, applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely **Notice of Allowance** be issued in this case.

Applicants believe that no extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely. Should Applicants be in error, Applicants respectfully request that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Joanne N. Pappas at 978-635-2289.

Respectfully submitted,



Joanne N. Pappas
Attorney for Assignee
Reg. No.: 40,117
Corning Incorporated
Life Sciences
45 Nagog Park
Acton, MA 01720
Tel: 978-635-2289

DATE: March 27, 2006